

even our grandchildren. They are often the lifeline to accessible, quality care at home.

We in Congress need to do our part to support these heroes by passing the Lifespan Respite Care Reauthorization Act, which my good friend Representative GREGG HARPER and I have introduced. It is the least that we can do in appreciation of the sacrifice these family caregivers make each and every day.

CONGRATULATING PHIL BERTOLINI

(Mr. BISHOP of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an impressive and dedicated public servant in Oakland County, Michigan, Phil Bertolini, who is being honored here in Washington, D.C., this week.

Phil is the chief information officer of Oakland County and has been recognized as the 2017 Public Official of the Year by Governing magazine.

Phil has spent most of his career handling technology issues for the county and has, most notably, spearheaded a program to help smaller communities gain access to better technology. In 2011, Phil created a process online allowing smaller governments to take advantage of Oakland County's state-of-the-art computing services through G2G Cloud Solutions.

Due to Phil's hard work and dedication, Oakland County's G2G Cloud Solutions now provides services to 82 agencies in Michigan and 721 users throughout the United States. Phil's experience and innovative mindset has earned Oakland County national recognition as a tech leader, being named as the second-most digitally advanced county in the country.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Phil Bertolini on being recognized as the 2017 Public Official of the Year. I would like to personally recognize and thank him for his tireless efforts and unwavering dedication to the community.

TAX SCAM

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, what do these people have in common: a teacher who buys a prom dress for her student; a teacher who buys crayons and pencils for her students; a teacher who buys packages of paper for his students; my mom, who calls me and says, "Don't cut my Medicare. Don't let them cut my Medicare"; the person who has a heart attack or is paying hard-earned money for his or her cancer treatment?

None of those people will be able to write off their medical expenses or their educational expenses. My mom

and other seniors will see a \$25 billion cut in Medicare.

What they have in common is that this tax scam will hurt all of them, as opposed to the folks who are the richest among us. The corporations who are doing very, very well, they will see the tax benefits.

This is not a tax plan, it is a tax scam, and our people that we serve deserve better.

CONDEMNING BUREAUCRATS AT CFPB

(Mr. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the out-of-control, President Obama-appointed bureaucrats over at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The CFPB has always been notorious for its questionably illegal agenda, but the agency and its leadership crossed the line last week when its Director, Richard Cordray, resigned.

Before he left, he attempted to circumvent the President's authority by illegally appointing another bureaucrat to replace him. But instead, President Trump, under the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, appointed Mr. Mick Mulvaney to temporarily head the CFPB.

Instead of allowing Mr. Mulvaney to fill the vacancy and get the CFPB working again, that bureaucrat, Leandra English, with the support of Mr. Cordray, tried to stage a coup against the President and Mr. Mulvaney by taking the President to court.

Mr. Speaker, partisan career bureaucrats will do anything they can to discredit the President and block his policy agenda. This behavior is exactly why President Trump ran for office in the first place. We need to drain the swamp, and let's start with the CFPB.

I applaud our judicial system for upholding the rule of law and confirming Mr. Mulvaney's right to lead the CFPB. We cannot allow petty partisan politics over at CFPB to obstruct our government's ability to govern.

□ 1230

THE TAX BILL

(Mr. SARBANES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, as Congress careens toward passage of a massive rewrite of our Tax Code, we ought to look at the process that got us here. This tax bill has seen no hearings, no expert testimony, and absolutely no honest efforts to build bipartisan support. This is a terrible shame and the result is a terrible sham.

Who are the ones calling the shots on this tax bill?

The corporate lobbyists and the big money donors who will make out like

bandits. They are the ones who will walk away with a smile on their face and money in their pocket. Meanwhile, millions of hardworking Americans will see their taxes increase under this plan. The latest numbers from the CBO say that 82 million Americans will be worse off.

A good tax plan would be trying to address widening wealth and income inequality in our country. A good tax plan would be seeking to invest in our people and our infrastructure. It would seek to help working families and build up the middle class. But this plan does the opposite.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to pull the plug on this tax proposal that is of, by, and for the wealthy and well-connected. We can, and we must, do better for all Americans.

HONORING LARRY EARL ROBERTSON

(Mr. WESTERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women who deliver the mail in rural America. The work is not easy. As the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association notes, these carriers are essentially post offices on wheels, providing many of the same services to rural residents that urban dwellers take for granted.

One such rural carrier was Larry Earl Robertson from Jessieville, Arkansas. Larry was my mailman for more than 25 years and, as many rural letter carriers throughout our country can attest, he was a part of our family. He knew my wife and children, just as we knew his family. He was an integral part of our community and played an important role in the lives of rural Garland County residents. Simply put, Larry was a friend to everyone. Just as Larry was a friend to all, he was also a faithful Christian and family man.

Through his service—at just 54—he had made an important and lasting impact on his community, as many rural letter carriers do. That is why it was especially sad when we received word of his untimely passing last week. In the pain and grief of death, we take comfort in the words of Christ who said: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

May we all strive to do our jobs with diligence and a smile and positively impact our communities as Larry Robertson impacted his.

NET NEUTRALITY

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, in a year where we are dealing with healthcare, immigration, and, yes,

taxes, I am very pleased by the volume of mail that I have gotten from my constituents on all of those issues. But I have to tell you the one issue that my constituents have contacted me most on is net neutrality.

I hear from young people and college students, many who have been calling for the first time about wanting an internet that is free from the meddling of a few large internet providers.

As we know, the internet is perhaps one of the most important advances of our time. It is a tool that allows citizens to connect from all over the country and even the world and improves the quality of life.

From elementary to graduate level students, all would be affected if the title II regulations were changed. From the student finishing homework to military families keeping in touch, we need a free and open internet.

So why attack an institution that benefits millions for the gain of a few big cable companies?

Please join me in contacting the FCC to tell them net neutrality matters to our constituents and it certainly matters to all of us.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, as Americans across this country were enjoying Thanksgiving with their families, over 438 Americans were victims of gun violence.

So what is the response of the House Republican leadership?

Advancing the misguided Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act that would eviscerate State laws meant to keep people safe from gun violence.

This bill being marked up today in the Judiciary Committee would put lives at risk by forcing all States to recognize weapon permits from other States, regardless of how lax State permitting laws may be.

House Republicans have no right to curtail the safety reforms that New York and other States have put in place to protect their citizens. That is why law enforcement organizations from across the country strongly oppose this legislation. It should never come to the floor.

Americans deserve a better deal and more protection from gun violence, not less.

HONORING RABBI WEISSMANDL WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a man whose heroic legacy must never be forgotten.

At a time when the stakes could not have been higher, Rabbi Weissmandl

risked everything to save the Jewish people of Slovakia from the horrors of the Nazi regime. Forming an underground organization called the Working Group, Weissmandl led an effort to bribe German officials, ultimately succeeding to delay mass deportations.

We cannot emphasize enough the great personal risk Rabbi Weissmandl took on. Had he bribed the wrong official or approached a Hitler supporter, he would have been killed. Yet, despite that real danger, he persevered and demonstrated an unyielding determination to stop the slaughter of the innocent.

In 1945, Weissmandl reached the shores of America, ultimately settling in New York. Even after the war, he worked to improve Holocaust survivors' lives by establishing the first Yeshiva campus in America.

Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Weissmandl is truly a hero. At great personal risk during the darkest of times, he helped those who were desperate. It is only appropriate we honor him with the highest civilian honor, a Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Weissmandl's legacy by cosponsoring H.R. 2740.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF SPECIALIST CARLTON BUTLER OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share sad news from my district. Miami is mourning the loss of another young American hero who died while serving our great Nation.

Specialist Carlton Butler from North Miami, who was just 22 years old, was found dead at Fort Bragg in North Carolina last Saturday evening. He was a paratrooper assigned to B Company, 2nd Battalion 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. The circumstances of his death are under investigation and are very troubling to me and to his family.

Like Sergeant La David Johnson, my constituent who was killed last month during an ambush in Niger, Specialist Butler made an immediate and overwhelmingly positive impression during his short tenure in the military. Like Sergeant Johnson's family, Specialist Butler's family is left wondering why and how their soldier's life ended in such a suspicious manner.

They have many questions, and so do I. I am determined to help get the answers they need to heal. Both families need answers in order to heal. I will not stop pushing until these families are satisfied. When such devastating losses occur, we owe it to them to find answers as quickly as possible.

These answers are not acceptable: "We really don't know." "We are investigating." "We can't say that."

Mr. Speaker, we seek the truth and our military families deserve the truth.

THE REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

(Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the tax bill being debated in the Senate.

Under this bill, by 2027, those making \$1 million and over will see the biggest tax cuts. All the while, by 2021, families earning just \$10,000 to \$30,000 would start seeing their taxes increase. By 2027, taxes would increase for all Americans earning \$75,000 a year or less. The Senate bill repeals a vital part of ObamaCare and would lead to increased premiums and 13 million people becoming uninsured.

This bill is disastrous for America, California, and my district. In 2027, California residents will suffer from an over-\$12 billion tax increase.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Senate colleagues to oppose the GOP tax bill.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Small Business:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 28, 2017.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: This letter is to inform you that due to my election to the Committee on Homeland Security, I am resigning my seat on the Committee on Small Business. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve with Chairman Chabot and address the issues facing small businesses in our country. I look forward to continuing to serve small businesses and my constituents in other capacities.

Very Respectfully,

DON BACON,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 634

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Mr. Curtis.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY: Mr. Bacon.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS: Mr. Curtis.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.